



Pedro Nava

Assemblymember

REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35



www.asm.ca.gov/nava

JULY 2008

Assemblymember Nava Introduces Resolution Calling on President Bush and Congress to Oppose Lifting Offshore Drilling Ban

SACRAMENTO – In response to recent efforts by President Bush and some members of Congress to lift the moratorium on offshore drilling, Assemblymember Nava introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 51 to voice the State Legislature's opposition to any further oil and gas leasing on the outer continental shelf.

"Efforts to lift the moratorium on offshore oil drilling are pure political theatre," said Nava. "It will do nothing to lower gas and energy prices and will only serve to put all our coastlines at risk, endangering tourism, fisheries and coastal recreation."

**Greka Oil Spill Update-
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Benefits that may result from new drilling will be virtually inconsequential. According to the Bush Administration's own Energy Information Agency, offshore oil exploration and development will have a negligible effect on both gas prices and energy independence. Furthermore, this minor effect won't be realized for over 20 years.

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Making a Difference

There are many wonderful people and organizations that impact the 35th Assembly District. From time to time, we will profile them in the feature "Making a Difference".

Santa Barbara - Supervisor Janet Wolf and Councilmember Helene Schneider are working to end chronic homelessness in the Santa Barbara County Region as members of Bringing Our Community Home, a coalition of Santa Barbara County agencies in the third year of its 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness. The coalition has placed approximately 50 people into permanent homes in two years, and hopes to house nearly 100 more in the next year.

"I appreciate the hard work and effort of Supervisor Wolf and Councilmember Schneider to break the cycle of chronic homelessness in Santa Barbara," said Assemblymember Nava.

Bringing Our Community Home plans to accomplish its goal through the use of four principle strategies: prevention and intervention by catching people at risk, thereby stopping the pattern of chronic homelessness before it begins; providing diverse and appropriate support services that meet the chronically homeless "where they are"; increasing permanent affordable housing; and promoting economic self-sufficiency through vocational opportunities and access to financial benefits. *Continued on page 2, see "Care"*



Philip Mangano is joined by local leaders (from left) Councilmember Helene Schneider, Councilmember Das Williams, Supervisor Janet Wolf and Mayor Marty Blum

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Indeed, increasing drilling has not reduced gas prices. Since 1994 the amount of wells drilled in U.S. Territory has increased from over 3,000 wells to nearly 9,000 wells. Meanwhile, the price of gas has risen from just over \$1.00 to \$4.00. There are currently 68 million acres of unused oil leases in U.S. territory both onshore and offshore. With the price of a barrel of oil at \$140 one would think the oil companies would be using every already available lease.

Offshore drilling will put important segments of our state's economy at risk. Recreation and tourism along California's coast represent more than \$12.5 billion in revenues. Fishing and aquaculture industries are estimated to contribute \$400 million to the state's economy. If the Moratorium is lifted, drilling would be able to commence from the Northern California coast down to San Diego.

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Santa Barbara's 10-year plan to end homelessness has been embraced by the new federal model which allows local agencies to retain federal dollars for their housing assistance programs. The plan is one of approximately 350 nationwide.

Philip Mangano, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, was invited by Bringing Our Community Home to address the group and members of the community at a July meeting in Santa Barbara. Mr. Mangano spoke highly of Santa Barbara's plan and of the cooperation between multiple city and county officials to accomplish an important goal.

Assemblymember Pedro Nava and the California Department of Fish & Game Announce Lead Ammunition Ban to Save California Condor

Santa Barbara, CA -Assemblymember Pedro Nava held a press conference in Santa Barbara recently to announce the implementation of AB 821, the Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Act, banning the use of lead ammunition for hunting within the California condor range beginning July 1st of this year. He was joined at the press conference by the California Department of Fish & Game, Audubon California and the Sierra Club. Many different types of non-lead ammunition were on display.

Nava said at the press conference, "Today is a great day in the efforts to bring the California condor back from the brink of extinction. On July 1, 2008, all hunters must utilize non-lead ammunition within the California condor range. Implementation of my legislation will create a brighter future for this magnificent bird which has flown over California for thousands of years."



Assemblymember Nava holds a lead bullet (left) and an approved non-lead copper-tipped bullet (right) for hunting game in Condor Country. (Janelle Holcombe, SB Daily Sound)

The Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Act removes the number one threat to the survival of the endangered California condor, lead ammunition, by having hunters switch to widely available, non lead ammunition when hunting in condor country.

The condor is a scavenger and eats carcasses left by hunters where accidentally ingested fragments of lead ammunition are mistaken for bones with nutritious calcium. If not captured, tested, and treated for lead poisoning, there would be fewer than 79 California Condors flying wild today.

For a list of non-lead projectiles approved for hunting in condor range visit www.dfg.ca.gov

Assemblymember Nava to Co-Host Free Veterans Health and Resource Fair

August 23, 2008 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oxnard - Veterans, seniors, and their families are welcomed to the 3rd annual Veterans Health and Resource Fair sponsored by Assemblymember Nava, Procare Foundation, County of Ventura Human Services Agency, Ventura County Star, and the VA Steering Committee of Ventura County. Organized to provide health and benefit information to area veterans in one place, the fair will feature representatives from healthcare organizations throughout the county as well as from county, state and federal agencies to answer health, benefits, and service related questions. Free vision, diabetes, and blood pressure health screenings will be provided during the event.

"Last year, working with Col. George Compton, Ventura County Veterans Affairs Officer, we had over 300 veterans attend and receive information about benefits and services. I hope to break that record this year and look forward to meeting our veterans and their families," said Nava.

Partial list of participants: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, California Department of Veterans Affairs, Employment Development Department, VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System, County of Ventura, Ventura Vet Center, Disabled American Vets, and Clinicas del Camino Real Mobile Health Screening Unit.



Assemblymember Nava discusses benefits with veteran at the 2007 Veteran Health and Resource Fair.

Saturday, August 23rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard 93030 (Across the street from the Ventura County Adult Day Care)

For more information please contact 888-620-6993 or www.procarenet.com/vetfair.asp

Greka Update

Joint Letter Sent to Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors from Sierra Club California and Assemblymember Pedro Nava

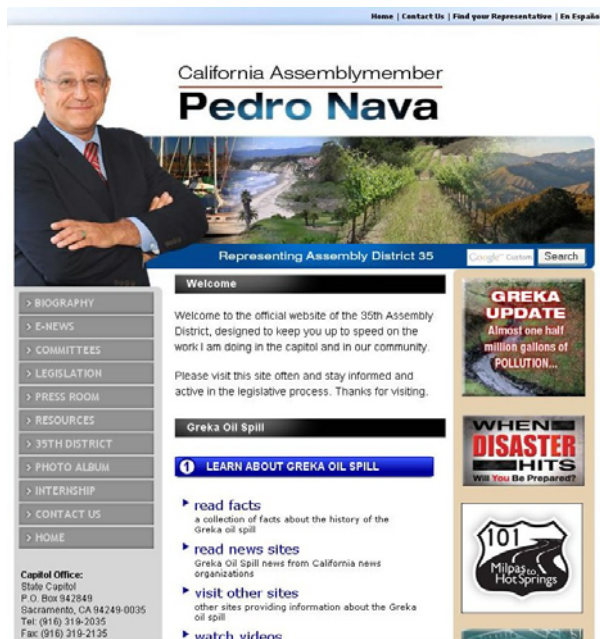
Santa Barbara - Recently, the Sierra Club California and Assemblymember Pedro Nava sent a joint letter regarding Greka Energy to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors demanding stronger action by the Board. The letter highlighted the fact that Greka Energy has been Santa Barbara County's biggest polluter for many years. In the last six months alone, Greka has had 41 documented oil spills.

Said Paul Mason, Sierra Club California Deputy Director, "Greka must be held accountable for the damage it's created. Other, law-abiding Santa Barbara companies don't have the luxury of simply ignoring the law."

Assemblymember Pedro Nava said, "If it weren't damaging our watershed and threatening our community's health, Greka's carelessness might be merely shocking. With the price of a barrel of oil now reaching \$140, Greka can obviously afford to address its repeated spills. I urge strong, immediate action by my Santa Barbara colleagues."

For more information on Greka, log onto to www.asm.ca.gov/nava.

Assemblymember Pedro Nava Launches New Web Site for Constituents



Santa Barbara – Assemblymember Pedro Nava announced today that he launched a new, updated web site for his constituents. The web site is located at: www.asm.ca.gov/Nava.

"I am pleased to announce that my new web site is now available to all of my constituents," said Nava. "You can find valuable resources and information on the web site regarding my work as your 35th Assembly District representative. I encourage everyone to visit the site."

Assemblymember Pedro Nava's web site offers resources and links to the following information:

Assemblymember Nava's biography, e-newsletter, committees, legislation, press room, resource links, 35th Assembly District map, photos, internships, Greka update, emergency preparedness, 101 Milpas to Hot Springs Project, paying for college, and link to sign-up for Assemblymember Nava's E-News.

Assemblymember Nava encourages all his constituents to visit! The web site can be found at: www.asm.ca.gov/nava.

Vanpool program helpful to all

*By Kevin Merrill/On the Farm
Boardmember, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau*

To launch the vanpool, \$100,000 from the county's Transportation Development Act funds, \$50,000 from the city of Santa Maria and an additional grant from Caltrans will help fund the new program this season.

The farmworkers, who many times cannot afford a reliable car for transportation to and from work, pay a fare based on distance traveled daily to participate in the program. Drivers for the vanpool program are from the local ag workforce.

The driver must have a license and a clean driving record, pass a physical examination and go through a driver-training school to learn how to operate the vans safely.

In Kings County, 90 drivers have received training and gas cards monitored by the county, along with positive feedback from the farmworkers utilizing the vanpool program.

During pruning, some of the folks who work for Mesa Vineyard Management took advantage of the program, and I remember seeing one of the vans parked alongside the vines as I passed by to check on the progress of the crews.

I remember Teri Bontrager, executive director of the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, and I met with Jim Talbott, executive director for SMOOTH Inc., and the ag vanpool program manager, Rosemary Luque, at their office in Santa Maria.



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Jim and Rosemary outlined the program for us and asked if we could help get the word out to farmers about this new pilot program they were about to launch.

Both Teri and I felt there were far more positives to the program than negatives, and we invited Jim and Rosemary to make a presentation to the Farm Bureau board.

After hearing the proposal, the board unanimously voted to support the program.



Other groups supporting this program include the California Highway Patrol, Santa Maria Police Department and the California Employment Development Department.

So far, there have been 17 interested drivers, 11 having been approved for vanpool operation, with an additional five drivers still in process. The vans average eight passengers per van per day, traveling over 27 miles per day.

With gas prices rising daily, I expect more folks will take advantage of this program.

Those of us who rely on crews that work in fields of broccoli, lettuce, strawberries, winegrapes or the plethora of other crops grown here in North County need to let their crews know about this new service.

Usually, like the folks who work for us, the passengers work on the same crews at the same location day after day.

I think the ag vanpool program is a good thing for everyone in the county. The pros outweigh the cons - less cars on our rural roads, making them safer for everyone.

I hope we take advantage of it, like our counterparts in Kings County and other parts of the state. I read that San Luis Obispo County is looking into the same program as well.

I hope you were able to enjoy the warm weather we had last week.

If you have a chance, check out your local grocery stores and farmers markets; it is the time to buy the beautiful fresh peaches, nectarines, apricots and other fruits being harvested in our own San Joaquin Valley.

Remember: Be Californian. Buy California grown.

Kevin Merrill is a vineyard manager for Mesa Vineyard Management in Santa Maria. He is a board member for the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau and currently serves as president of the Central Coast Wine Growers' Association Foundation. He can be reached at kmerrill@mesavineyard.com.

Assemblymember Nava Honors 35th Assembly District California Boys State Attendees



Assemblymember Nava chats with Boys State participants from the 35th Assembly District on the Assembly floor.

Sacramento - On Thursday, June 26, 2008, Assemblymember Pedro Nava honored 13 residents of the 35th Assembly District for their selection to attend the 71st Annual California Golden Boys State Conference.

"I am an ardent supporter of programs like Boys State and Girls State and proud to honor the students that were selected to be here today," said Nava. "These students represent the best and brightest from our area high schools and I look forward to celebrating their successes in the future."

A program of the American Legion, Boys State developed from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective on the practical operation of government and that the individual is an integral part of the success of his government. The program is open to males who have successfully completed their junior year of high school who exhibit the outstanding qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty, and service to their schools.

A Boys State program, generally, is fashioned after the government structure of the respective state. On average, a Boys State Conference convenes a period of seven days. Throughout that time, each delegate assumes the role of either an elected or appointed official or a responsible citizen.

Of the 950 high school students who attended the 2008 California Golden Boys State Conference, those representing the 35th Assembly District were: Parker Babbe (Goleta), Gregory Benninger (Oxnard), Jeff Dunne (Ventura), J. Parker Eliot (Ventura), Danny Hemingway (Santa Barbara), Paul Jackson (Ventura), Kory Kindle (Ventura), Jacob Kovacs-Goodman (Goleta), Jake Petersen (Solvang), Bryce Small (Solvang), Mark Suarez (Solvang), and Harris Valle (Camarillo).

The American Legion Auxiliary's California Girls State Conference occurred simultaneously at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA.

District Offices:

- 101 W. Anapamu, Ste A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Phone: (805) 564-1649 • Fax: (805) 564-1651
- 201 E. Fourth Street, Ste 209-A, Oxnard, CA 93030 Phone: (805) 483-9808 • Fax (805) 483-8182

Capitol Office: P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0035 Phone: (916) 319-2035 • Fax: (916) 319-2135